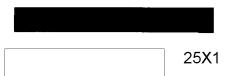
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Summary Report

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

POSSIBLE SLBM TEST TOWER AT SEVERODVINSK SHIPYARD 402, USSR (TSR)

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SR-024/78 MARCH 1978

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POSSIBLE SLBM TEST TOWER AT SEVERODVINSK SHIPYARD 402, USSR (TSR)	
(TSR) Analysis of activity involving a possible missile tube test tower at Severodvinsk	
Shipyard 402 and construction at Nenoksa Naval Missile Test Center	25X1
(NMTC; as seen on imagery acquired since 1971 indicates that a correlation	25 X 1
can be drawn between activity at the tower and the development of specific submarine-	
launched ballistic missile (SLBM) weapons systems.	
(TSR) The original test tower, constructed between August 1970 and March 1971, was	
probably designed for the testing of a missile launch tube and/or for the training of personnel involved in handling the components and equipment associated with the SS-N-8 SLBM.	
The tower consisted of an 8.0-meter square base with a 4.0-	25X1
meter-diameter cylinder extending above the base. The inner tube diameter of the cylinder	
including lockdown ring	25X1
dimensions are the same as those of SS-N-8 missile tubes. The first Delta-class SSBN	207(1
nuclear powered fleet ballistic missile submarine was launched in December 1971, approx-	
imately nine months after the completion of the test tower.	
(TSR) Between August 1972 and March 1973 activity was again seen at the possible	
SLBM test tower. This activity consisted of removing the 4.0-meter-diameter cylinder and	
the launch tube cap. and their sub-	25X1
sequent replacement. This modification of the tower coincided with and is probably related	

imately nine months after the (TSR) Between August 197 SLBM test tower. This activity the launch tube cap sequent replacement. This modi to the development of the SS-NX-17. Other activity supporting this assumption includes the modification of launch facility B at Nenoksa NMTC between 1973 and 1975 and the subsequent flight testing of the SS-NX-17, beginning in May 1975. The platform for the SS-NX-17 system, a modified Y-class SSBN, was launched in June or July 1976, approximately one year after flight testing of the SS-NX-17 was begun.

(TSR) From June 1973 to May 1975 activity was again observed at the test tower. Construction centered around the base of the tower and on the utility lines leading to the old SLBM tower (Figure 2). Although the exact nature of the work is not known, it is felt that this construction activity was associated with development of the SS-NX-18. Again the conclusion is based on an apparent sequence of activities. The construction of the tower coincided with the construction of launch facility C at Nenoksa NMTC and preceded the initial launch of the SS-NX-18 in October 1975.

Construction of the Delta III SSBN began in January or February 1974, with the first unit being launched in January 1976, some three months after the SS-NX-18 flight test program began.

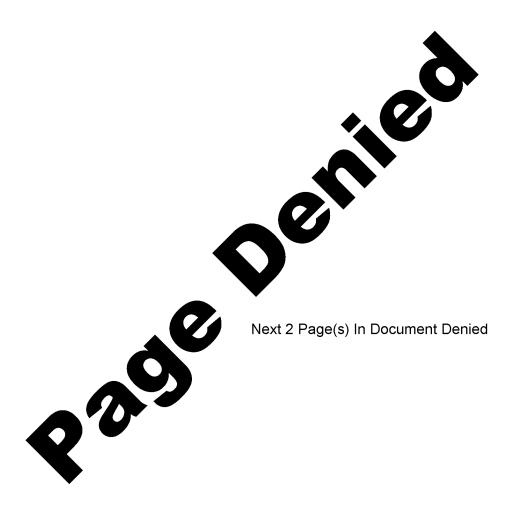
(TSR) In November 1975 construction of a new tower at Severodvinsk was begun and by				
		ppeared to be externally complete.		
	showed a			
positioned over the 4.0-meter opening in the base. Curved segments for extending the height				
of the base		and deck plates were also observed near the tower.		
	L		(Continued p. 5)	

- 1 -Top Secret

25X1

25X1 25X1

25X1_{X1}



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	the tower appeared to be complete and a hinged cap had	25 X 1 25 X 1	
been placed over the opening			
(TSR) During 1975 const	ruction also was begun on a new launch facility (launch probable new SSBN at Severodvinsk, Also, a new SLBM is	25 X 1	
currently undergoing popup tes	ting at Balaklava Missile Test Center	25 X 1	
(TSR) If the development SS-NX-18, are valid and are apand Balaklava, then it would stesting of a new SLBM. It approgram in late 1978 or early vinsk, if it is related to the SLE patterns of the initial platforms	al concepts, as previously discussed for the SS-NX-17 and oplicable to the current activities at Nenoksa, Severodvinsk, suggest that preparations are once again underway for flight lears that launch facility D could be ready for the flight test 1979. If a new submarine is under construction at Severod-BM test program at launch facility D, and if it follows launch as for the SS-NX-17 and SS-NX-18, then it is possible that the d within three months to a year after the beginning of the new		
		25X1	

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